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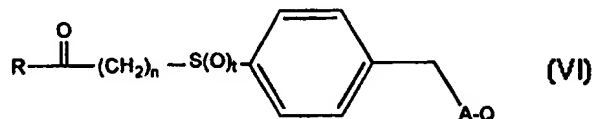
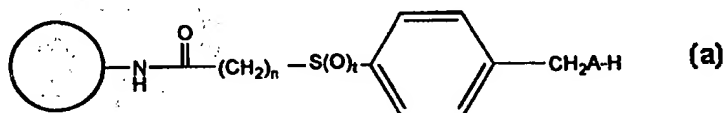
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(54) Title: UNIVERSAL LINKER FOR COMBINATORIAL SYNTHESIS

(57) Abstract

A substrate for solid phase synthesis of formula (a) is disclosed. Also disclosed are processes for preparing the substrate and intermediates useful therein. Among the novel intermediates are compounds of formula (VI), wherein t is 0 or 1; n is 3-20; R is OH, an activated ester or the residue of a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities; A is -O- or -NH- and Q is hydrogen or a protecting group for an amine or alcohol.



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UNIVERSAL LINKER FOR COMBINATORIAL SYNTHESIS

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates generally to the synthesis of chemical compounds, and
5 more particularly, to the solid phase synthesis of combinatorial libraries of chemical compounds.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Combinatorial organic synthesis is becoming an important tool in drug
discovery. Methods for the synthesis of large numbers of diverse compounds have
10 been described [Ellman, *et. al.* *Chem. Rev.* 96: 555-600 (1996)], as have methods
for tagging systems [Ohlmeyer *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 90, 10922-
10926, (1993)]. The growing importance of combinatorial synthesis has created a
need for new resins and linkers having chemical and physical properties to
accommodate a wide range of conditions, since success depends on the ability to
15 synthesize diverse sets of molecules on solid supports and to then cleave those
molecules from the supports cleanly and in good yield.

Linkers are molecules that can be attached to a solid support and to which
the desired members of a library of chemical compounds may in turn be attached.
When the construction of the library is complete, the linker allows clean separation
20 of the target compounds from the solid support without harm to the compounds
and preferably without damage to the support. Several linkers have been described
in the literature. Their value is constrained by the need to have sufficient stability to
allow the steps of combinatorial synthesis under conditions that will not cleave the
linker, while still having a fairly high lability under at least one set of conditions that
25 is not employed in the synthesis. For example, if an acid labile linker is employed,
then the combinatorial synthesis must be restricted to reactions that do not require

the presence of an acid of sufficient strength to endanger the integrity of the linker. This sort of balancing act often imposes serious constraints on the reactions that can be employed in preparing the library.

The 4-[4-(hydroxymethyl)-3-methoxyphenoxy]butyryl residue is a known linker, which is attached to a solid support having amino functionalities by forming an amide with the carboxyl of the butyric acid chain. N-Protected amino acids are attached to the hydroxyl of the 4-hydroxymethyl group via their carboxyl to form 2,4-dialkoxybenzyl esters, which can be readily cleaved in acid media when the synthesis is complete [see for example Riniker et al. Tetrahedron 49 9307-9312 (1993)]. The drawback to such 2,4-dialkoxybenzyl esters is that they can also be cleaved by many of the reagents that one might want to use in combinatorial synthesis.

A somewhat more stable ester is formed from 4-[4-(hydroxymethyl)phenoxy]butyric acid. It has been described in European published application EP 445915. In this case, the ester was cleaved with a 90:5:5 mixture of trifluoroacetic acid, dimethyl sulfide and thioanisole.

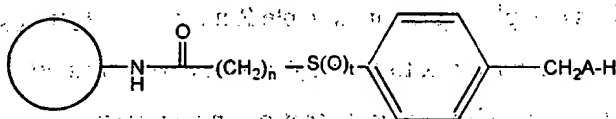
When the desired product is a peptide amide, the 4-[4-(formyl)-3,5-dimethoxyphenoxy]butyryl residue has been employed. It is attached to a solid phase substrate via the carboxyl of the butyric acid chain, and the 4-aldehyde is reductively aminated. N-Protected amino acids are then reacted with the alkylamine via their carboxyl to form 2,4,6-trialkoxybenzylamides. These may be cleaved by 1:1 trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane. [See PCT application WO97/23508.]

It would be useful to have a linker-resin combination that would withstand a wider range of reaction conditions in combinatorial synthesis, but that could be readily and cleanly cleaved following completion of the solid phase synthesis.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a linker-resin combination that demonstrates the ability to withstand many of the common reaction conditions and yet is cleavable under relatively mild conditions. In the following disclosure, the variables are defined when introduced and retain that definition throughout.

In one aspect, the invention relates to a substrate for solid phase synthesis comprising a solid phase-linker combination of the formula:



wherein

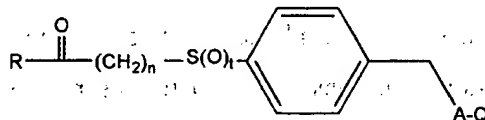
10 -NH represents the residue of a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities and the remainder constitutes the linker;

A is -O- or -NH-;

n is 3-20, preferably 3-5; and

15 t is 0 or 1. Preferred solid phases are aminomethylated poly(styrene-co-divinylbenzene) and divinylbenzene-cross-linked, polyethyleneglycol-grafted polystyrene functionalized with amino groups.

In another aspect, the invention relates to chemical intermediates of the formula VI

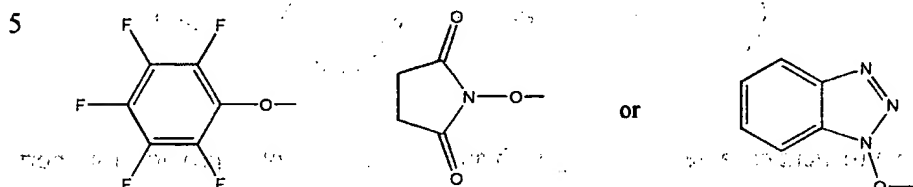


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VI

wherein Q is hydrogen or a protecting group for an amine or alcohol; and R is

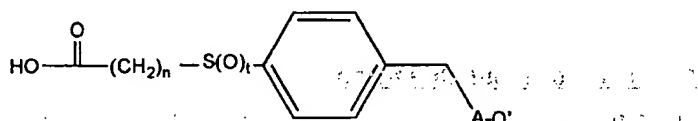
chosen from OH, the residue of a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities, and a residue of an activated ester. Preferred activated ester residues are those of pentafluorophenol, N-hydroxysuccinimide and hydroxybenzotriazole:



When A is NH, Q is preferably t-butoxycarbonyl or benzyloxycarbonyl; when A is -O-, Q is preferably aryl- or alkylcarbonyl (e.g. benzoyl or acetyl), benzyl, t-butyl, tetrahydropyranyl or trialkylsilyl.

In another aspect, the invention relates to processes for preparing the foregoing substrate for solid phase synthesis. One process comprises:

(a) combining in a suitable solvent a condensing agent, a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities, and a compound of formula IV (i.e. VI in which R=OH).



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IV

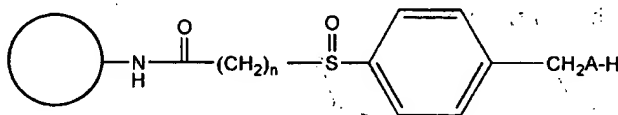
wherein Q' is a protecting group for an amine or alcohol to provide a protected precursor of a substrate for solid phase synthesis; and

(b) treating the protected precursor with a reagent capable of cleaving the protecting group Q to provide a substrate for solid phase synthesis. In an

alternative process, in step (a) a subset of VI in which R is a group displaceable by an amine (R⁴) and no condensing agent is needed. Typically R⁴ will be an activated ester and preferred activated esters are those shown above.

In another aspect, the invention relates to a process for solid phase synthesis comprising:

(a) reacting a substrate for solid phase synthesis of the formula:



5 with a reagent capable of reacting with an amine or alcohol to provide a support-linked synthon;

(b) carrying out a plurality of chemical transformations on the support-linked synthon to provide a support-linked product;

(c) treating the support-linked product with a trivalent phosphorus reagent, whereby the sulfoxide is reduced to a thioether; and

(d) treating the support-linked product with acid to cleave the product from the support and linker. Preferred trivalent phosphorus reagents are tributyl phosphine and triphenylphosphine. Trifluoroacetic acid is a preferred acid for cleavage.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Abbreviations and Definitions

The following abbreviations and terms have the indicated meanings throughout:

Ac	=	acetyl
BNB	=	4-bromomethyl-3-nitrobenzoic acid
20 Boc	=	t-butyloxy carbonyl
Bu	=	butyl
c-	=	cyclo
DBU	=	diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene
DCM	=	dichloromethane = methylene chloride = CH_2Cl_2
25 DEAD	=	diethyl azodicarboxylate

	DIC	=	diisopropylcarbodiimide
	DIEA	=	N,N-diisopropylethyl amine
	DMAP	=	4-N,N-dimethylaminopyridine
	DMF	=	N,N-dimethylformamide
5	DMSO	=	dimethyl sulfoxide
	DVB	=	1,4-divinylbenzene
	EEDQ	=	2-ethoxy-1-ethoxycarbonyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline
	Fmoc	=	9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl
	GC	=	gas chromatography
10	HATU	=	O-(7-Azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate
	HOAc	=	acetic acid
	HOBt	=	hydroxybenzotriazole
	MCPBA	=	<i>meta</i> -chloroperbenzoic acid
15	Me	=	methyl
	mesyl	=	methanesulfonyl
	NMO	=	N-methylmorpholine oxide
	PEG	=	polyethylene glycol
	Ph	=	phenyl
20	PhOH	=	phenol
	PfP	=	pentafluorophenol
	PyBroP	=	bromo-tris-pyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate
	rt	=	room temperature
	sat'd	=	saturated
25	s-	=	secondary
	t-	=	tertiary
	TBDMS	=	t-butyldimethylsilyl
	TFA	=	trifluoroacetic acid
	THF	=	tetrahydrofuran
30	TMOF	=	trimethyl orthoformate
	TMS	=	trimethylsilyl

tosyl = p-toluenesulfonyl

Trt = triphenylmethyl

“Alkyl” is intended to include linear, or branched hydrocarbon structures and combinations thereof of 1 to 20 carbons. “Lower alkyl” means alkyl groups of
5 from 1 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples of lower alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, s- and t-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, and the like.

“Cycloalkyl” refers to saturated hydrocarbons of from 3 to 12 carbon atoms having one or more rings. Examples of “cycloalkyl” groups include c-propyl, c-butyl, c-pentyl, c-hexyl, 2-methylcyclopropyl, cyclopropylmethyl,
10 cyclopentylmethyl, norbornyl, adamantyl, myrtanyl and the like. “Lower cycloalkyl” refers to cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbons.

C₁ to C₂₀ Hydrocarbon includes alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl and combinations thereof. Examples include phenethyl, cyclohexylmethyl and naphthylethyl.

15 “Alkoxy” means alkoxy groups of from 1 to 8 carbon atoms of a straight, branched, cyclic configuration and combinations thereof. Examples of alkoxy groups include methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, cyclopropyloxy, cyclohexyloxy, and the like. “Lower alkoxy” means alkoxy having 1-4 carbon atoms.

20 “Halo” includes F, Cl, Br, and I.

“Fluoroalkyl” refers to an alkyl residue in which one or more hydrogen atoms are replaced with F, for example: trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, and pentafluoroethyl.

“Arylalkyl” denotes a residue comprising an alkyl attached to an aromatic

or heteroaromatic ring. Examples include benzyl, phenethyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, and the like.

The term "aryl" means an aromatic hydrocarbon radical of 4 to about 16 carbon atoms, preferably 6 to about 12 carbon atoms, more preferably 6 to about 10 carbon atoms. Examples of suitable aromatic hydrocarbon radicals include phenyl and naphthyl.

For the purpose of the present invention, the term "combinatorial library" means a collection of molecules based on logical design and involving the selective combination of building blocks by means of simultaneous chemical reactions. Each species of molecule in the library is referred to as a member of the library.

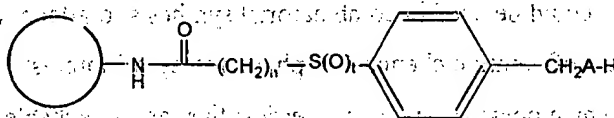
As will be obvious to the person of skill in the art, the linkers of the invention could be used in combinatorial synthesis to attach tags as well as to attach the moiety of putative chemical or pharmacological interest. Tags are chemical entities which possess several properties: they are detachable from the solid supports, preferably by means orthogonal to those employed for releasing the compound of pharmacological interest; they are stable under the synthetic conditions; and they are capable of being detected in very small quantities, e.g., 10^{-18} to 10^{-9} mole. Suitable tags and methods for their employment are described in US patent 5,565,324, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

The materials upon which combinatorial syntheses are performed are referred to as solid supports, beads, and resins. These terms are intended to include:

(a) beads, pellets, disks, fibers, gels, or particles such as cellulose beads, pore-glass beads, silica gels, polystyrene beads optionally cross-linked with divinylbenzene and optionally grafted with polyethylene glycol, poly-acrylamide beads, latex beads, dimethylacrylamide beads optionally cross-linked with N,N'-bis-acryloyl ethylene diamine, glass particles coated with hydrophobic polymer, etc., i.e., material having

a rigid or semi-rigid surface; and (b) soluble supports such as polyethylene glycol or low molecular weight, non-cross-linked polystyrene. The solid supports may, and usually do, have functional groups such as amino, hydroxy, carboxy, or halo groups; amino groups are the most common. Techniques for functionalizing the surface of solid phases are well known in the art. Attachment of lysine to the amino groups on a bead (to increase the number of available sites) and subsequent attachment of linkers as well as further steps in a typical combinatorial synthesis are described, for example, in PCT application WO95/30642, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. In the synthesis described in WO95/30642, the linker is a photolytically cleavable linker, but the general principles of the use of a linker are well illustrated.

The invention relates to substrates for solid phase synthesis comprising solid phase-linker combinations of the formula:



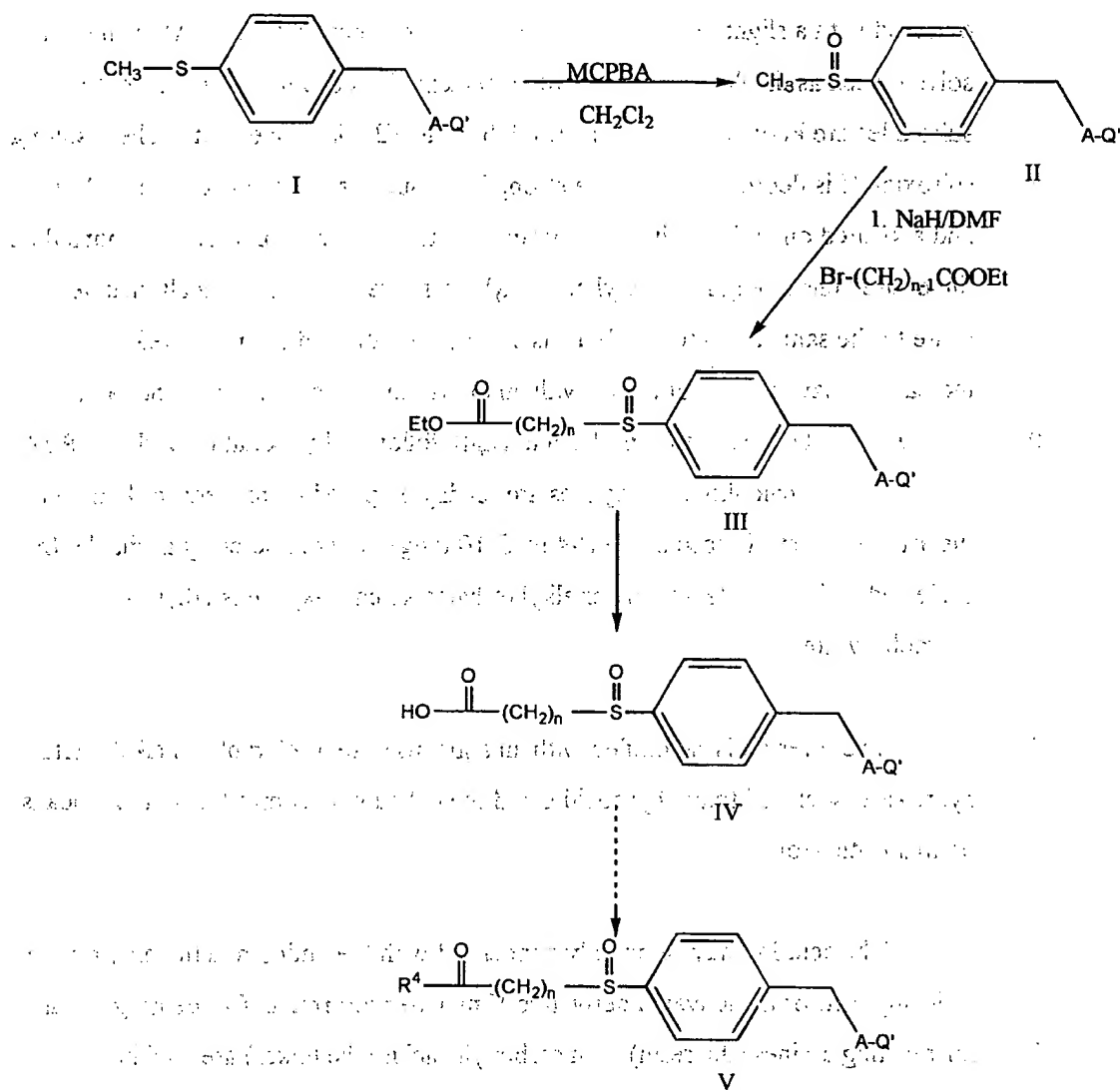
In these solid phase-linker combinations, $t=1$ at the beginning of solid phase synthesis and t is reduced to $t=0$ when it is desired that the linker can be cleaved.

The relative stability of the sulfoxide ($t=1$) allows the use in solid phase synthesis of acids and bases that would cleave an alkylthiobenzyl linkage. We refer to these linkers as "universal linkers" because of their stability to both basic and acidic

conditions. When the elaboration of the attached moiety is complete, the sulfoxide may be reduced under very mild conditions to a thioether. The thioether activates the benzyl alcohol (or amine, depending on the nature of A) toward acid cleavage.

The linker can then be acid cleaved without harm to the compounds being synthesized and without damage to the support.

The solid phase-linker combinations are prepared by the following route:



Commercially available 4-(methylthio)benzyl alcohol or benzylamine is protected with any of the well-known protecting groups for alcohols or amines. [See, Greene and Wuts Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis Second Edition John Wiley & Sons, New York 1991; pages 1-118 and 309-370 which are incorporated herein by reference.] Preferred protecting groups are t-butyldiphenylsilyl for the benzyl alcohol and t-BOC for the amine. Methods for protecting and deprotecting with these groups are found in Greene and Wuts on pages 83 and 327 respectively.

The suitably protected 4-(methylthio)benzyl alcohol or benzylamine I is oxidized with a slight excess of *meta*-chloroperbenzoic acid (MCPBA) in an inert solvent such as dichloromethane. Other oxidants for converting thioethers to sulfoxides are known and could be used, but MCPBA is convenient. The resulting sulfoxide II is deprotonated with a strong base, such as sodium hydride in DMF, and alkylated on carbon with an ω -bromoalkanoate ester of one fewer carbons than the desired chain length. Methyl and ethyl esters are preferred. An alternative route to the same ester-sulfoxide III is via the alkylation of the protected 4-mercaptobenzyl alcohol or amine with an ω -bromoalkanoate ester of the same number of carbons as the desired chain length followed by oxidation with MCPBA. Lower alkyl ω -haloalkylcarboxylates are readily prepared by procedures known in the art, and most of those in the C-4 to C-10 range are commercially available. In preferred embodiments, the lower alkyl ω -haloalkylcarboxylate is ethyl 4-bromobutyrate.

The ester III is saponified with an aqueous base, preferably an alkali metal hydroxide, such as lithium hydroxide, and the pH may be controlled, e.g. by means of an autotitrator.

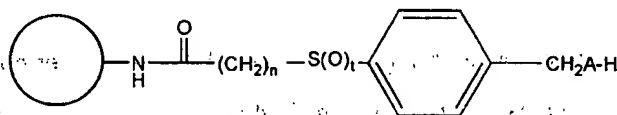
The acid IV may be directly condensed with the amino functionality on the solid support, or an activated derivative V may be preformed. Condensing agents for reacting amines (the resin) with carboxylic acids (the linker) are well known, particularly in the art of solid phase synthesis of peptides. Such agents include carbodiimides of various sorts, mixed anhydrides, EEDQ, HATU, and the like. It is also possible to pre-react the carboxylic acid of the linker with an appropriate leaving group to form an activated ester. Activated esters denote esters which are capable of undergoing a substitution reaction with primary or secondary amines to form an amide. The term includes esters "activated" by neighboring electron withdrawing substituents. Examples include esters of phenols, particularly electronegatively substituted phenol esters such as pentafluorophenol esters; O-esters of isourea, such as arise from interaction with carbodiimides; O-esters of N-

hydroxyimides and N-hydroxy heterocycles; specific examples include S-t-butyl esters, S-phenyl esters, S-2-pyridyl esters, N-hydroxypiperidine esters, N-hydroxysuccinimide esters, N-hydroxyphthalimide esters and N-hydroxybenzotriazole esters. Solvents that are inert to the conditions of the condensation are "suitable solvents". These include, for example, THF, DMF, DCM and the like.

For combinatorial synthesis, the solid phase-linker combination may be reacted with a carboxylic acid, an alkyl halide or any other substituent known to react with an alcohol or amine. The choice of reagent is immaterial to the present invention and is determined by the nature of the combinatorial library sought to be synthesized. The number and nature of further reactions of support-linked synthon will be similarly dictated by the needs of the library. When the combinatorial synthesis is complete, the sulfoxide in the linker can be reduced with a trivalent phosphorus reagent and the linker cleaved from the resin by treatment with acid, preferably trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane, or HCl in diethyl ether or dioxane.

CLAIMS

1. A substrate for solid phase synthesis comprising a solid phase-linker combination of the formula:



wherein

5 $\text{Circle}-\text{NH}$ represents the residue of a solid support having a plurality of

amino functionalities;

A is -O- or -NH-;

n is 3-20; and

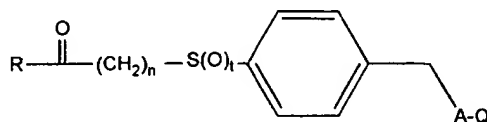
t is 0 or 1.

2. A substrate according to claim 1 wherein n is 3-5.

3. A substrate according to claim 1 wherein $\text{Circle}-\text{NH}$ is chosen from

aminomethylated poly(styrene-co-divinylbenzene) and divinylbenzene-cross-linked, polyethyleneglycol-grafted polystyrene functionalized with amino groups.

4. A chemical intermediate of the formula



wherein

n is 3-20;

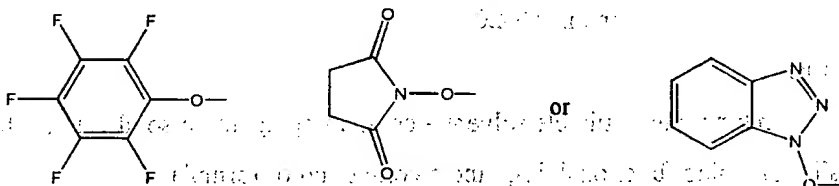
t is 0 or 1;

A is -O- or -NH-;

- 5 Q is hydrogen or a protecting group for an amine or alcohol; and
R is chosen from OH, the residue of a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities, and a residue of an activated ester.

5. A chemical intermediate according to claim 4 wherein R is OH.

6. A chemical intermediate according to claim 4 wherein R is



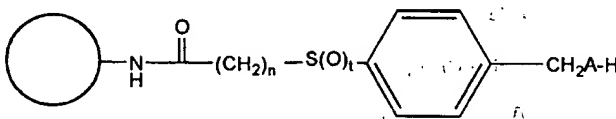
7. A chemical intermediate according to claim 4 wherein R is the residue of a solid phase substrate chosen from aminomethylated poly(styrene-co-divinylbenzene) and divinylbenzene-cross-linked; polyethyleneglycol-grafted polystyrene functionalized with amino groups;

8. A chemical intermediate according to claim 4 wherein A is -NH- and Q is t-butoxycarbonyl, or benzyloxycarbonyl.


9. A chemical intermediate according to claim 4 wherein A is -O- and Q is t-butyl, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, benzyl, tetrahydropyranyl or trialkylsilyl;

10. A chemical intermediate according to claim 4 wherein n is 3-5.

11. A process for preparing a substrate for solid phase synthesis of the formula:



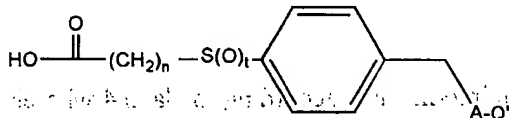
wherein

5  represents the residue of a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities;
t is 1;

A is -O- or -NH-;
and n is 3-20,

comprising

- 10 (a) combining in a suitable solvent a condensing agent, a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities, and a compound of formula



wherein Q' is a protecting group for an amine or alcohol, to provide a protected precursor of a substrate for solid phase synthesis; and

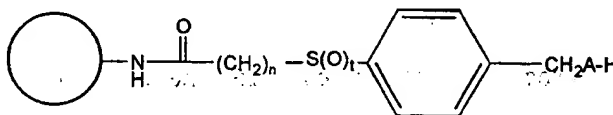
- 15 (b) treating said protected precursor of a substrate for solid phase synthesis with a reagent capable of cleaving the protecting group Q' to provide said substrate for solid phase synthesis.

12. A process according to claim 11 wherein said solid support is chosen from aminomethylated poly(styrene-co-divinylbenzene) and divinylbenzene-cross-linked, polyethyleneglycol-grafted polystyrene functionalized with amino groups.

13. A process according to claim 11 wherein n is 3-5, A is -O- and Q' is benzyl, tetrahydropyranyl or trialkylsilyl.

14. A process according to claim 11 wherein n is 3-5, A is $-NH-$ and Q' is t -butoxycarbonyl, or benzyloxycarbonyl.

15. A process for preparing a substrate for solid phase synthesis of the formula:



wherein



represents the residue of a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities;

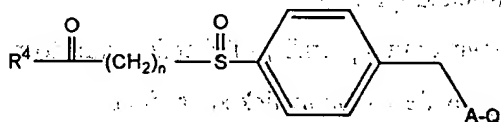
t is 1;

A is $-O-$ or $-NH-$;

and n is 3-20,

comprising

(a) combining in a suitable solvent a solid support having a plurality of amino functionalities and a compound of formula



wherein R^4 is a group displaceable by an amine and Q' is a protecting group for an amine or alcohol to provide a protected precursor of a substrate for solid phase synthesis; and

(b) treating said protected precursor of a substrate for solid phase synthesis with a reagent capable of cleaving the protecting group Q' to provide said substrate for solid phase synthesis.

16. A process according to claim 15 wherein said solid support is chosen from aminomethylated poly(styrene-co-divinylbenzene) and divinylbenzene-cross-linked,

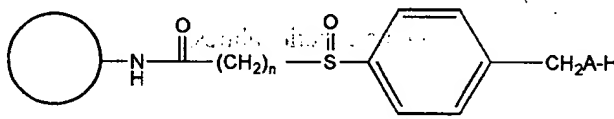
polyethyleneglycol-grafted polystyrene functionalized with amino groups.

17. A process according to claim 15 wherein n is 3-5, A is -O- and Q' is benzyl, tetrahydropyranyl or trialkylsilyl.

18. A process according to claim 15 wherein n is 3-5, A is -NH- and Q' is t-butoxycarbonyl or benzyloxycarbonyl.

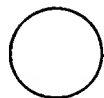
19. A process for solid phase synthesis comprising:

(a) reacting a substrate for solid phase synthesis of the formula:



wherein

5



—NH represents the residue of a solid support; A is -O- or -NH-;

and n is 3-20, with a reagent capable of reacting with an amine or alcohol to provide a support-linked synthon;

(b) carrying out a plurality of chemical transformations on said support-linked synthon to provide a support-linked product;

10 (c) treating said support-linked product with a trivalent phosphorus reagent, whereby the sulfoxide is reduced to a thioether; and

(d) treating said support-linked product with acid to cleave the product from the support and linker.

20. A process according to claim 19 wherein said trivalent phosphorus reagent is tributyl phosphine or triphenyl phosphine.

21. A process according to claim 19 wherein said acid is trifluoroacetic acid.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 99/05677

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C07C323/52 C07C317/44 C07B61/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07C C07B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	B. RINIKER, ET AL.: "A general strategy for the synthesis of large peptides: the combined solid-phase and solution approach" TETRAHEDRON, vol. 49, no. 41, 8 October 1993, pages 9307-9320, XP002107574 OXFORD, GB cited in the application see figure 3 -----	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 June 1999

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